Amendments to the Claims

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

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10. (cancelled)

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18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A method of treating inflammatory disease in a patient comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site, wherein said fusion protein is covalently linked to an anti-inflammatory [a] cytokine and wherein said fusion protein is heterologous to said anti-inflammatory cytokine.

28. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein said anti-inflammatory cytokine is an interleukin.

29. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein said anti-inflammatory cytokine is an interferon.

30. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the latency associated peptide comprises the precursor peptide of TGFβ-1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

31. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the proteolytic cleavage site is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) cleavage site.

32. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the fusion protein is covalently linked to the latent TGF binding protein (LTBP).

33. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis, scleroderma, renal disease, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis and atherosclerosis.

34. (new) A method for providing latency to an interferon comprising covalently linking a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site with the interferon, wherein said fusion protein is heterologous to said interferon and wherein said fusion protein provides latency to said interferon.

35. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the latency associated peptide comprises the precursor peptide of TGFβ-1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

36. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the proteolytic cleavage site is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) cleavage site.

37. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the fusion protein is covalently linked to the latent TGF binding protein (LTBP).

38. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein said interferon is interferon-β.

39. (new) A method for providing latency to an interleukin comprising covalently linking a fusion protein comprising a latency associated peptide and a proteolytic cleavage site with the interleukin, wherein said fusion protein is heterologous to said interleukin and wherein said fusion protein provides latency to said interleukin.

40. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the latency associated peptide comprises the precursor peptide of TGFβ-1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

41. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the proteolytic cleavage site is a matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) cleavage site.

42. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the fusion protein is covalently linked to the latent TGF binding protein (LTBP).

43. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein said interleukin is selected from the group consisting of interleukin-1, interleukin-2, interleukin-3, interleukin-4, interleukin-5, interleukin-6, interleukin-7, interleukin-8, interleukin-9, interleukin-10, interleukin-11, interleukin-12, interleukin-13, interleukin-14, interleukin-15, interleukin-16, interleukin-17, interleukin-18, interleukin-19, interleukin-20 and interleukin-21.

44. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein said interleukin is selected from the group consisting of interleukin-2 and interleukin-4.